

REMARKS

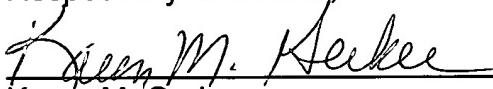
This communication is submitted in response to the Advisory Action dated July 24, 2006.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 12-14, 16 and 18 are pending in the subject application and were indicated in the Advisory Action as being allowable. Claims 4, 14 and 16 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 and 17 have been canceled herewith, and claims 19-31 were previously canceled.

It was indicated by the Examiner in the Advisory Action that claims 2, 4, 8, 9, 12-14, 16 and 18 would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims. In accordance with the Examiner's indication, the present amendment is submitted to place the subject application in condition for allowance.

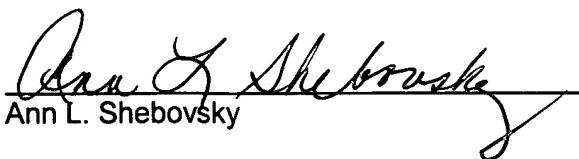
In light of the foregoing, allowance of the subject patent application is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain in the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


Karen M. Gerken
Registration No. 31,161

EPSTEIN & GERKEN
1901 Research Boulevard, Suite 340
Rockville, Maryland 20850
(301) 610-7634

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on August 17, 2006.


Ann L. Shebovsky